

STUDENT HANDBOOK

SEPTEMBER 1984

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN

(607) 256-5454
Ext. 2729

GREETINGS AND A WARM WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 1988!

The uncertainties and competition of admissions are over, and you are ready to embark on a rewarding four-year course of study and clinical training. Hard work lies ahead, to be sure, but with its accomplishments will come a satisfaction which is its own reward.


Your instructors will expect a high level of performance, but they are people of understanding and will not ask the impossible. They will be glad to help should the need arise.

You are here to prepare yourself to enter a profession which demands, above all else, integrity, as well as a perceptive understanding of your clients and patients. Your relations with classmates offer an excellent opportunity to continue your training for professional life. An overly competitive spirit may lead you to lay undue emphasis on grades. But remember that you are studying to master a subject which is basic to your life's work, not to merely obtain a high grade as an end to itself.

In this college we hope you will find an atmosphere of helpful cooperation which you may cherish and develop to an even higher level during the years with us.

Good luck to all of you!

Sincerely,


Edward C. Melby, Jr., D.V.M.
Dean

THE SERPENT - HOW IT BECAME THE SYMBOL OF THE HEALING ARTS

Gilgamesh, legendary ruler of Uruk, set out one day in desperate search of the herb of life which would free his people from sickness and death. After much traveling, he came to the 'primal sea'. Weighted down with stones, he sank into the dark waters, and plucked the sacred herb from the bottom of the sea.

As Gilgamesh journeyed homeward, the gods sent down an unbearable heat, tempting him to bathe in a cool lake. Nearly overcome from exhaustion, he plunged into the cool water, laying the herb of life on the bank. While he bathed, a snake found the herb and ate it. The herb took effect at once, and the snake cast off its skin and crawled away rejuvenated. By eating the sacred herb, the snake gained the ability to cast off its skin and thus retained youth forever.

Gilgamesh has lost the herb of life and the gods condemned man to sickness and death. Man's knowledge that the snake possessed the herb of life made the serpent the symbol of a number of gods of healing. After his death, caused by a lightning bolt thrown by Zeus, Aesculapius was represented holding a staff with a single serpent wreathed around it.

Recently, the AVMA adopted the Aesculapian staff as its official insignia. Its distinctive design sets it apart from other medical pursuits and symbolizes the healing arts of the veterinary profession.

- Courtesy Fort Dodge Laboratories
June, 1971

You will receive a booklet which details the provisions of the Honor code. Please read it thoroughly and refer to it frequently. You will elect from your class two representatives to the Student Administration Board. They will provide you with a channel for communications for matters of concern about the Honor Code.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the fall term will be from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Monday, August 27, in the lobby of Schurman Hall. By now you should have received registration forms from the University Registrar's Office. Please bring them with you so you will not have to leave the line to fill out new ones.

Anyone not registering at the appointed time will be allowed to attend late registration which will be held in Barton Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursday, August 30, and Friday, August 31. There is, however, a \$60 fee for late registration within the first three weeks of the semester. After the third week it is \$70 for the fourth week, \$80 for the fifth, \$90 for the sixth, and an additional \$25 per week thereafter.

In the future if you should have animal-or-school-related commitments which prevent your attending regular registration, a waiver of the late registration fee may be requested by contacting the College Registrar no less than two weeks in advance of the scheduled registration date. Except in extreme emergencies, later requests for waiver will not be considered.

SUPPLIES AND BOOKS

No one needs to tell a student that the cost of education has increased far beyond the inflation rate in recent years. Texts and other supplies are major contributors to this escalating expense. At present, you will be able to purchase all necessary education materials through the Cornell Campus Bookstore, off-campus stores or the academic departments.

The Student Chapter of the AVMA and the Campus Bookstore will operate a satellite bookstore in the Hagan Room. The hours are:

Monday, August 27 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 28 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 29 - 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be on sale at the Cornell University General Services Laundry at 120 Maple Avenue. See Walt Benjamin or Ruth Hatch, whose offices are on the second floor, at any of the following times.

ADVISORS AND COUNSELING

We have recently put in place a new advising concept where first-year students are assigned to a first or second-year class teacher for one year, then reassigned to a permanent advisor for the remainder of their school career. We have done this in hopes that first-and-second-year class teachers are more available to students and understanding of the difficulties that might be encountered in the first year of the curriculum.

The requirements for formal faculty advisor-student contact are minimal, but it is hoped that both the faculty member and student will seek each other out on a frequent basis. Our concept of counseling should not be crisis-oriented, for much can be gained by students who capitalize on the experience and concern of their advisors. Yet, faculty advisors, the staff of the Office of Student Affairs, and various Cornell and Ithaca agencies are ready to deal with personal and professional crises.

In general, we hope all of the faculty and staff of the college will seek to serve you in making the time with the college as free from stress as possible. If there are stresses which require help for you or your family to be able to deal with effectively, reach out.....someone will be there.

EXEMPTION FROM REQUIRED COURSE WORK

Students having taken courses which are included in the veterinary medicine core curriculum while registered in another college at Cornell may be exempted from those courses by providing the professors with evidence of prior satisfactory completion of the course work. The professor then sends written notice of the exemption to the College Registrar.

Likewise, students having completed course work at another institution which they feel is equivalent to a particular course in the veterinary medicine core curriculum may be exempted from that course by providing the professor with evidence that equivalent course work has been satisfactorily completed. Again, the professor provides the College Registrar with written notice of the exemption.

ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is expected in all courses. Unexcused absences do not entitle students to make up the work missed. Students who have been absent from classes for valid reasons should apply to the Director of Student Affairs for official recognition of the absence. The Director will in turn notify the instructor of the course missed that the absence has been excused. Advance notification, when possible, of an unavoidable absence should be given to the Office of Student Affairs or the instructor. Only the University Medical Clinic has the authority to grant medical excuses or leaves.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

Because the very basis of your future success in the field of veterinary medicine is dependent not only upon your interest, aptitude, initiative and application, but also upon the satisfactory assimilation of the subject matter, the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine has unanimously adopted the following Guidelines for Academic Performance of Veterinary Students:

1. Any student receiving an F or U grade in a required course shall be denied permission to reregister* in the College of Veterinary Medicine or if in the last semester, shall be denied permission to graduate.
2. Any student receiving four (4) D- to D+ (W) grades in one term may be denied permission to reregister* or be required to repeat the courses in which he or she obtained marginal grades or be required to repeat the entire term.
3. Any student receiving three (3) D- to D+ (W) grades in one term may be denied permission to reregister* or be required to repeat the courses in which he or she obtained marginal grades or be required to repeat the entire term.
4. Any student receiving two (2) D- to D+ (W) grades in one term shall receive a letter of warning from the Director of Student Affairs. If a student has been warned and receives two (2) more D's in the subsequent term, the individual will be denied permission to reregister* in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The Director of Student Affairs shall notify each Class Teachers Committee of the students who have been warned in the previous term.
5. None of the foregoing in any way compromises the prerogative of the faculty which may, under special circumstances, make exception to these guidelines.

* (Definition: Denied Permission to Reregister. Indicates a student's deficiency, precludes his or her continuation in the college. It does not preclude the right to apply for readmission to the college.)

The Class Teachers for each semester will meet at the end of the semester to review the academic performance of each class. That review may include a review of problems of attitude as well as demonstrated aptitude. Students requiring official notification of deficiency or concern will be informed as soon as possible after the Class Teachers meeting and necessary counseling meetings will be arranged accordingly.

INCOMPLETES

An incomplete is given to a student who is in good standing in a course that has not been completed for reasons acceptable to the instructor. Unless all course requirements are successfully accomplished within the time limit specified by the instructor at the time the incomplete is granted, the incomplete will automatically be recorded as an "F".

A student may request from the course instructor an explanation of the criteria and information used in making a subjective evaluation. Whenever possible, differences of opinion should be resolved through open and candid discussions between these parties. If, after these discussions, the student believes the subjective evaluation was not a fair appraisal of his/her performance or was based on prejudice or inaccurate information, he/she may appeal in writing to the Chairman of the Department, who will review all issues and recommend a resolution. The next level of appeal available to the student is the Dean.

The final option within the College is by written appeal to the General Committee. This elected committee may (1) decline to pursue the matter if they believe the case lacks substantial merit, (2) present the case to the entire faculty, with permission of the petitioner, or (3) conduct a thorough investigation and make recommendations to one or both parties.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE STANDARDS

One aspect of professionalism which the college hopes to encourage in its students is a proper concern for their dress and appearance. It is felt that the high standards of dress and hygiene developed and reinforced during the preparatory years will be carried on long after graduation, reflecting great credit on the individual and the veterinary profession as a whole. The administration and faculty of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine expects that all students of the college will strive toward the utmost in professional appearance and deportment. Participation in clinical laboratory activities requires appropriate clinical or laboratory uniforms.

Students are expected to wear name tags to classes, laboratories, and during all involvement in the clinical area.

SMOKING AND HOUSEKEEPING

Smoking is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, elevators, animal holding areas, and certain other facilities where the fire hazard is considered to be especially great. This means that lighted cigarettes, cigars, and pipes should not be carried into these areas and that smoking should be done only after leaving the facility and/or buildings. Ashtrays will be provided in rooms where smoking is permitted. You are requested not to fill up cigarette receptacles with items other than cigarettes. The tables in the Research Tower cafeteria should be cleared by the user after use. Carrying food and drinks into classroom G-3 of the Veterinary Research Tower is prohibited. You are encouraged not to take food and drinks into other classrooms due to costly maintenance and replacement generated from spilled food and drinks. The cooperation of all in keeping our buildings clean and orderly is expected.

You have been provided locker space. You must wear lab coats, coveralls, boots, or other protective clothing when required. Such clothing should not be worn outside the College of Veterinary Medicine. You should change into street clothes before leaving the college.

LOCKERS

The Office of Student Affairs assigns a locker to every student for use during the current academic year. Information as to available locker space may be obtained from Mona in the Student Affairs Office. All students are required to furnish their own locks.

Should you encounter any problems in locating your locker, or with its operation, please report them to us. The college as well as the next first-year class will appreciate your leaving them clean and in good repair when you vacate them in May.

AUTOTUTORIAL CENTER

The Autotutorial Center can provide you with an exciting opportunity for self-study and review using various audio-visual formats. These formats include: Audiotape cassettes, 35mm color slide sets in carousel trays and videotape cassettes. A wide range of programs is available for your use. For example, you can study the anatomy of the horse on 35mm color slides at your own pace or you can review surgical techniques on videotape prior to the scheduled class session. The Center's staff will be happy to assist you in using the equipment or in finding specific programs.

LIBRARY

The Flower Veterinary Library, located on the second floor of Schurman Hall, has an extensive collection of veterinary books and journals and a staff that is always willing to assist you. You should make a habit of checking recent journals that interest you.

Tours of the library have been arranged for first-year students and will be conducted during Orientation.

THE FIRST YEAR

GROSS ANATOMY (Fall Term)

The entire class of first-year students meets four times a week in the Gross Dissection Laboratory. Two of the four laboratory periods each week is preceded by a lecture or demonstration. The lectures consider comparative gross aspects of vertebrate organ systems, the specific anatomy of selected organs, radiographic anatomy, new books and reference materials.

GROSS ANATOMY (Spring Term)

The class is divided into dissection groups of 8 students each. During the first 8 weeks each group dissects a horse (4 students to a side), and during the remaining 6 weeks three-quarters of the groups dissect cows and one-quarter dissects goats. The anatomy of the pig is demonstrated on prosections and video tapes and studied during a brief dissection of one-week-old animals, using the same cuts as are made in a post mortem examination. The preserved large animals stand on their feet, but are attached to overhead rails on which they are moved. Having dissected through the dog, students can expect that much anatomical knowledge is taken for granted and the dissection proceeds therefore at a faster pace. One lab per week a live horse or cow is available for palpation.

The dissection instruments used for the dog dissection suffice for the large animals, but clothing must be more protective so that coveralls must be worn. Additional, coarser dissecting tools and skeletal, hoof and horn preparations will be issued to each group. Lecture and laboratory schedules, supervision, and examination are similar to those of the fall term dog anatomy course.

DEVELOPMENTAL ANATOMY (12 weeks in Fall Term)

This course emphasizes emerging structural relationships in the mammalian embryo and those features, such as the placenta, which are unique to fetal stages. Description of malformations in domesticated animals and experimental analyses of their causes are discussed. The laboratory includes examination of normal and abnormal fetuses.

CYTOLOGY (2 weeks in Fall Term and Spring Term)

A functional-structural consideration of the cell and tissues of domestic animals is presented. The material is designed to correlate with instruction presented in Gross Anatomy, Physiology and Cellular Mechanisms. There is one lecture and two laboratory periods per week.

NEUROANATOMY (Spring Term)

The nervous system of domestic animals is studied by functional systems. This is a vertically integrated course that includes the diagnosis of diseases of the nervous system. Clinical cases with pertinent lesions are demonstrated with each system.

PHYSIOLOGY

An understanding of normal body functions is basic to the prevention or treatment of disease. The course is physiology examines the functions of the various organs and systems. It concentrates on the domestic species that are presently most important to veterinary medicine in order to define common denominators as well as species variations. It also attempts to discuss major variations in a wider range of species whenever possible. Lectures are organized primarily by systems, e.g. cardiovascular, nervous, respiratory, digestive, etc., although it is sometimes necessary to discuss multiple systems under such as metabolism or acid-base balance. The laboratory is organized to correlate with the lectures.

GUIDELINES FOR PREGNANT VETERINARY STUDENTS - THIRD & FOURTH YEAR
Adopted by Faculty of the Department of Medicine and Surgery Fall, 1982

The potential for human injury always exists in the practice of veterinary medicine, and it increases whenever an involved person is pregnant. Undoubtedly the greatest hazards are accidents which can occur while working with animal patients and which might cause physical trauma to the pregnant woman and/or her unborn child. Added hazards exist through exposure to toxic drugs, infectious agents, inhalation anesthetics, radiation and other agents.

The Pregnant student should:

1. Contact a physician immediately to get recommendations for a plan to minimize exposure to the hazards that may be associated with a veterinary student's clinical assignments.
2. Provide a signed statement from the physician which defines permitted limits of exposure to possible hazards during the pregnancy.
3. Inform administrators in clinical veterinary medicine of her pregnancy as early as possible in order that steps may be taken to conform to the plan developed by the physician.

AVAILABLE OPTIONS:

1. Withdrawal as a student -
It is strongly recommended that the pregnant student consider withdrawing as a student and plan to be readmitted to graduate with the next class in veterinary medicine. This option minimizes risks and reduces the concerns of everyone.
2. Continuation as a regular student with some schedule and assignment changes -
This option may not delay or only slightly delay the time of graduation. This option may not be without risks. It is dependent upon -
 - a. changes that can be made in an individual's schedule of clinical assignments which are prepared in advance for an entire calendar year.
 - b. the willingness of classmates to exchange scheduled assignments with the pregnant student.
 - c. certification by an attending physician of any constraints and of the individual's physical ability to continue full participation in aspects of the educational program.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It is recognized that the pregnant woman has rights and the responsibility for decisions concerning her pregnancy based on medical opinion regarding safety and childbearing. She should expect due consideration from everyone associated with her during her pregnancy whatever her decisions may be. At the same time she is expected to complete each and every requirement of the veterinary curriculum by a schedule or plan that can be implemented and by which the risks are deemed assumable by her and her physician. A faculty member may refuse to allow a pregnant student to participate in assignments or activities whenever that faculty member or most clinicians consider that the potential for accidents or for exposure to hazards are high.
(Copies of all documents pertaining to a pregnant student's assignment must be maintained in the student's file.)

FRATERNITIES

There are currently two veterinary fraternities active at the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine: Alpha Psi and Omega Tau Sigma. Although the ideals are much the same as undergraduate fraternities, their purpose is more serious, the companionship closer, the expenses less, and the entertainment about the same. Likewise, the mandatory activities of veterinary fraternities are far less time consuming. They have less frequent meetings and require no pledge duties. All in all, the fact that the overwhelming majority of students each year join fraternities speaks well for the system. Upper class brothers and sisters and the fraternity files stand ready to aid you in your studies. In addition, many faculty members regularly attend fraternity functions, providing an informal atmosphere for interaction with professors and clinicians.

AUTOMOBILES AND BICYCLES

All students bringing cars and motorcycles to Ithaca must register them at the Traffic bureau, 116 Maple Avenue, or during registration at Schurman Hall. The Traffic Bureau will already have a list of D.V.M. and veterinary graduate students for verification. Parking permits issued to D.V.M. and veterinary graduate students allow you to park in one of two locations: 1) Caldwell Road lot, immediately east of the college--available only to fourth-year veterinary students, and 2) the lot located west of B Lot and south of the Boyce Thompson Institute. The cost of the 1984-85 parking permit is \$59.00 for the academic year or \$79.00 for the full year.

CLASSROOM USE

All use of classrooms is scheduled through the College Registrar who may be contacted in the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Postsplenectomy Sepsis with DF-2: Report of a Case with Isolation of the Organism from the Patient's Dog

WILLIAM J. MARTONE, M.D.; RICHARD W. ZUEHL, M.D.;
GEORGE E. MINSON, M.D.; and W. MICHAEL SCHELD, M.D.

University of Virginia Medical Center; Charlottesville,
Virginia; and the Center for Disease Control, Atlanta,
Georgia

A FASTIDIOUS gram-negative bacillus, operationally referred to as DF-2 at the Center for Disease Control, has recently been described as causing human bloodstream infections and meningitis (1-4). Butler and associates (2) found that 10 of 17 persons with DF-2 infection had been bitten by dogs, suggesting a zoonotic reservoir.

The following case represents the first time to our knowledge that DF-2 has been isolated from the pet dog implicated in the transmission of infection.

A 44-year-old man underwent a staging laparotomy with splenectomy in November 1977 for Hodgkin's disease. He subsequently received chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The patient remained well until 9 August, 1979 when he developed fever, chills, and a rash over his chest and lower extremities. On 10 August, less than 18 hours after onset, the patient presented to the hospital with a temperature of 38.8 °C, blood pressure of 80/60 mm Hg, respiratory rate of 20/min, and pulse of 40/min. Numerous petechiae and purpura were noted over his chest and extremities. Hematocrit was 45% and leukocyte count 12 400/mm³ with a left shift. Prothrombin time was 19.6 (control, 11.2 s), partial thromboplastin time greater than 60 s (normal, 26 to 40 s), fibrinogen 290 mg/dL (normal, 170 to 340 mg/dL), and fibrin degradation products 16 µg/mL (normal,

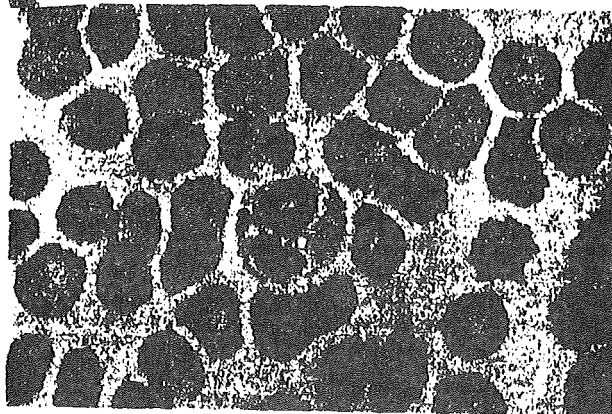


Figure 1. Peripheral blood film of patient showing multiple intracytoplasmic bacilli in a neutrophil. (Wright stain; original magnification, × 1000.)

0.5 to 8.0 µg/mL). Platelet count was 98 000/mm³. A Wright-stained peripheral blood film showed numerous neutrophils containing long, thin, intracytoplasmic bacilli (Figure 1). A Gram-stained buffy coat revealed that these were beaded gram-negative rods. Antibiotic therapy was initiated with tobramycin, ticarcillin, and chloramphenicol.

On the second hospital day, platelet count had fallen to 12 000/mm³ and hematocrit to 35%. Adult respiratory distress syndrome developed and the patient needed mechanical ventilation. Over the next week, the patient's condition stabilized, with improvement in his respiratory status and clotting variables. Artificial ventilation was discontinued on the eighth hospital day. On the 11th hospital day, one admission blood culture was reported to contain a gram-negative rod, tentatively identified and later confirmed as being DF-2; penicillin therapy was substituted for ticarcillin. Two additional admission blood cultures were subsequently reported to contain DF-2. All other blood and cerebrospinal fluid cultures were negative. Antibiotics were withdrawn on the 17th hospital day. The remainder of the patient's hospital course was marked by gradual improvement, although he needed surgical debridement and skin grafting at the site of peripheral gangrene. He was discharged on the 63rd hospital day.

When the organism isolated from the patient had been identified as DF-2, the patient was questioned again about his exposure to his dog. He denied being bitten but admitted that the dog would frequently grasp his hand and arm in its mouth. He denied exposure to other animals. With this history, an attempt was made to isolate the organism from the pet. Swabs of the animal's gingivae were placed in holding media (Culturette II; Marion Scientific Corporation, Kansas City, Missouri), returned to the laboratory at ambient temperature, and streaked on sheep blood agar plates. After 3 days of incubation at 38 °C in a 7% carbon-dioxide-enriched atmosphere, suspicious colonies were picked and subcultured. Two colonies were identified as DF-2 from biochemical reactions previously reported (2). The antibiotic sensitivity pattern of isolates from the patient and dog were identical and were consistent with previous reports (2).

An underlying condition that impairs normal host defenses is important in the pathogenesis of infection with DF-2. In Butler's series (2), only two patients were reported to be in good health before their infection. Five patients had undergone splenectomy, one for Hodgkin's disease, before becoming ill. In two of these patients, bacilli were seen on peripheral blood film. Our patient likewise had bacilli seen on his peripheral blood film. The unusual morphologic characteristics of the organism suggested that we were not dealing with a more common cause of postsplenectomy sepsis such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* or *Haemophilus influenzae*.

Butler and colleagues (2) presented data suggesting that dogs and possibly other animals serve as natural reservoirs of DF-2. Bailie and coworkers (5) substantiated Butler's suggestion that DF-2 may be part of the normal canine mouth flora by cultivating it from the oral cavity of four of 50 dogs. Our observations also support this opinion.

Physicians should be aware that dog ownership or other animal contact may be a risk factor for DF-2 infection, especially for patients with splenectomy or other underlying illnesses. In-vitro susceptibility testing and limited clinical experience suggest that penicillin, penicillin derivatives, and possibly other antibiotics are effective in treating the infection (2).

The authors thank Drs. Frederic Marsik and Dieter Gröschel, Clinical Laboratories, Department of Pathology, University of Virginia Medical Center, and Dr. Robert Weaver, Bureau of Laboratories, Center for Disease Control, for their assistance in isolating and confirming the identity of the organism.

Use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Public Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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This article will be of interest to those students who have had their spleens removed.